

**TOWN OF SOUTHERN SHORES  
6 SKYLINE ROAD  
SOUTHERN SHORES, NORTH CAROLINA 27949-3600  
(252) 261-2394**

**February 1, 2005**

Mayor  
Hal Denny

Council Members  
Jodi Hess  
Dan Shields  
David Sanders  
Brian MacDonald

Dear Southern Shores Property Owner:

The Town of Southern Shores is updating its Land Use Plan in accordance with state regulations and **needs your help!**

This plan will guide future growth and development; provide a framework for decisions about public services, facilities, and the use of land.

We need the opinions of the entire Town on these issues to help formulate this critical plan. So, we need your help! Please take a few minutes to complete this 8 page survey. Your comments will be invaluable to the Southern Shores Long Range Planning Advisory Committee in updating the Town's long range plan for **our future**.

Attached for your review is Attachment 1) the **Action** section which, **thanks to your comments in 1986, 1990 and 1997**, outlines actions taken on many issues while others are in the planning phase

We appreciate your willingness to share your opinions about the future of Southern Shores, and look forward to receiving your completed survey. Please return the postage paid questionnaire by March 15, 2005.

Sincerely,

Hal Denny  
Mayor

## OPINION SURVEY

### Southern Shores, North Carolina

#### Background Questions

1. Which of the following best describes your affiliation with the town of Southern Shores? Circle all that apply:

- a. Permanent Southern Shores resident
- b. Vacation homeowner/non-rental
- c. Rental property owner
- d. Undeveloped property owner

2. How many properties do you own in Southern Shores? \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following table for each property you own in Southern Shores:

	Type of Property				Location				
Property address	permanent residence	vacation/non-rental	rental	not developed	Ocean Side	West Side	Dunes	Canals & Woods	Soundfront

3. Are you a registered voter in Dare County? a. Yes b. No

4. For permanent residences, please indicate the number of persons in your household by age group:

\_\_\_\_\_ 1-10 \_\_\_\_\_ 11-20 \_\_\_\_\_ 21-49 \_\_\_\_\_ 50-64 \_\_\_\_\_ 65+

5. If not a resident now, do you plan to become a resident of Southern Shores in the future? a. Yes b. No

6. Are you retired? A. Yes b. No

## Town Growth

We would like to begin the survey by asking you several questions about how you feel Southern Shores should grow in the future.

Please circle the number which best describes your feelings about growth.

- |    |   | Strongly<br>Agree |   |   |   | Strongly<br>Disagree |
|----|---|-------------------|---|---|---|----------------------|
| 7. | Southern Shores should continue to develop as a low-density, single-family residential community with limited multi-family and commercial uses. | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                    |
| 8. | Southern Shores should become more tourist oriented and increase its accommodations to tourists (e.g., motels and retail shops).                | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                    |

## Traffic and Transportation

A study currently underway by a company supporting NCDOT is looking at various options to resolve tourist traffic problems on the Outer Banks during the summer. The options or a combination of them are a five lane road (NC 12 (Duck Rd.)) from Southern Shores to Corolla, a six lane US 158 on the south side of Southern Shores, widening of US 158 in Currituck and a Mid-County Currituck bridge. A study conducted by the "Build the Bridge Preserve Our Roads, Inc. (BBPR)" indicated that a five lane road would be "virtual destruction to the Town of Duck and significant damage to the Town of Southern Shores". Their estimate of the costs for rights of way, lost businesses, etc. is significantly more (approximately two times) than building a four lane bridge. That does not include the cost of the actual building of the road. Tax losses would be significant. Southern Shores would lose approximately 7% of the budget revenues. Another option that could be proposed by the town to counter a five lane road would be a three lane road that would provide a continuous turning lane through Southern Shores. A three lane road would obviously not be as invasive as a five lane road, but would still require some property disturbance. These following questions are related to the proposed widening of NC 12 to three or five lanes in Southern Shores and continuing to Corolla.

Please circle the number which best describes your feelings.

- |    |  | Strongly<br>Agree |   |   |   | Strongly<br>Disagree |
|----|--|-------------------|---|---|---|----------------------|
| 9. | A three lane NC 12 would alter the character of Southern Shores. | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                    |

- |     |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. | A three lane NC 12 would be a positive assist in traffic flow.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. | A three lane NC 12 would make it more dangerous for people to cross the road.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. | A five lane NC 12 would alter the character of Southern Shores.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13. | A five lane NC 12 would decrease property values in Southern Shores along the new road.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14. | A five lane NC 12 would decrease property values in all of Southern Shores.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15. | A four lane Mid-Currituck Sound bridge would significantly increase the accessibility to the Outer Banks as a tourist destination. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 16. | Please circle the road option listed below that you think is best for our Town.  |   |   |   |   |   |
|     | a. A five lane NC 12.  |   |   |   |   |   |
|     | b. A three lane NC 12  |   |   |   |   |   |
|     | c. Make no change to our current NC 12.  |   |   |   |   |   |
|     | • The following questions relate to traffic safety with regard to a five lane NC 12.   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 17. | A five lane NC 12 would make it more difficult and dangerous for tourists to get to the beach from the west side of NC 12.         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 18. | A five lane NC 12 would make it more dangerous for vehicular traffic to turn left from either side of NC 12.                       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 19. | A five lane NC 12 would significantly enhance hurricane evacuation.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 20. | A Mid-Currituck Sound bridge would significantly enhance hurricane evacuation.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Recognizing that the NC Department of Transportation says that the bridge will not completely solve the traffic congestion, please answer the following questions.

21. Would you support the bridge, but not a five lane NC 12?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
22. Do you want the bridge and a five lane NC-12?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
23. If the Mid Currituck Co. Bridge is not an option, circle your preference.
  - a. 5 lane NC-12
  - b. Do nothing

### **Southern Shores Internal Roads**

The next few questions concern the condition and safety of our Town roads. They address road width, road condition and the nearness of trees to the edge of the road. Standard road width is 24 ft. for 2 lanes, which provides for safe passage of fire and emergency vehicles. Example: NC 12 (Duck road) Most Southern Shores roads are 16ft wide or less.

Please circle the number which best describes your feelings.

		Strongly Agree				Strongly Disagree			
		1	2	3	4	5			
24.	The 16 ft. width of our Town roads (24' for NC 12) is adequate for our Town.								
25.	The condition of our Town roads is not up to acceptable standards.								
26.	The Town should fix the roads as the funds are available from the current tax rate.								
27.	The Town should raise the current tax rate in order to fix the roads at a faster pace.								

28. Because our Town roads are narrow, many trees in the right of way are very close to the road and create a hazard if forced off the edge of the road. Most Towns require trees to be removed within 8' of the road edge. A Town objective should be to remove trees out to 8' from the road edge. (The new Holly Trail is an example of a properly constructed road which is 20' wide and the trees are, for the most part, 8' from the edge of the road.)

29. In 1993, the Towns of Duck, Kill Devil Hills, and Nags Head asked the state Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) to change existing rules so that commercial boats fishing for menhaden could not operate in ocean waters within a mile and a half of their shores between May 1 and September 30, nor within a half-mile of shore between October 1 and December 31 each year. At that time, the Towns of Kitty Hawk and Southern Shores declined to join with the other three Towns in their request, which the MFC later approved.

In 1994, the State Legislature enacted a freeze on regular rule changes for a period of up to three years while a complete overhaul of statewide marine fishing regulations was studied. During this time, the MFC could only approve those rule changes that might lessen resource endangerment, user conflict, or problems in state control of its own fisheries.

In late 1995, responding to local interest in seeing the rule changes now in effect in Duck, Kill Devil Hills, and Nags Head, the Town asked the MFC to broaden the rule change to include Southern Shores as well. The request was denied by the commission on grounds that it did not meet the criteria set under moratorium rules.

	Strongly Agree				Strongly Disagree
	1	2	3	4	5
Do you think the Town should try again to win MFC approval of the same more rigorous restrictions on commercial menhaden fishing operations in Southern Shores waters as now apply in Duck, Kill Devil Hills, and Nags Head?					

**Community Activities:**

Currently, except for the Kitty Hawk Elementary School and the limited availability of the fire station, the Pitts Center, and the private Duck Woods Country Club, there are limited facilities in Southern Shores for community activities, such as: civic club meetings, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Outer Banks Forum, pre-school groups, teenage activities, community theatre plays, musicals, dance groups, meetings for community clubs such as stock clubs, garden clubs, bridge groups name but a few of the indoor space requirements for local interest.

30. Indicate below the types of activities which interest you, or your family:

- ☐ a. Civic and community group/club meeting rooms.
- ☐ b. Office/computer use space.
- ☐ c. Teen activities.
- ☐ d. Community theatre plays.
- ☐ e. Musical performances.
- ☐ f. Performances by dance groups.
- ☐ g. Other suggestions (Please list). \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Athletics:**

Currently there are basketball courts available at Sea Oats Park and at the school. Tennis courts are available at Hillcrest, Chicahauk and Duck Woods Country Club. There are playgrounds at Sea Oats Park and the sound beach, but these may not be sufficient to satisfy the needs of all our citizens.

31. Indicate below the types of activities in which you or your family may be interested.

- ☐ a. Additional outdoor basketball courts
- ☐ b. Additional tennis courts.
- ☐ c. Additional playgrounds.
- ☐ d. Additional multi-use paths. If so, where  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ e. Indoor swimming pool (Lap lanes and cardio/exercise areas).
- ☐ f. Soccer and football fields.
- ☐ g. Indoor fitness facility.
- ☐ h. Indoor handball/racquetball courts.
- ☐ i. Paintball combat arena
- ☐ j. Other suggestions (Please List)\_\_\_\_\_

32. Please choose from the following types of facilities or no facility. Please circle your choice below.
- a. A performing arts center with fold away seating that could be converted easily to a basketball court, meeting rooms and areas for card groups and other similar activities.
  - b. A community center with meeting rooms/areas for senior activities, a fitness center, handball/racquetball, indoor swimming.
  - c. A combination of (a and b).
  - d. No need for a Community Center.

Note: An outdoor playground would be an inexpensive addition to any form of a facility.

33. Please circle your age group.
- 20-30          30-40          40-50          50-60          60+

34. Do you have children living at home? Please list their ages: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Beach Nourishment**

The beaches of Dare County's Outer Banks provide a wide range of public safety, recreational, social, economic and environmental benefits to residents and visitors. There has been serious beach erosion to many parts of the beaches of the Outer Banks. Beach nourishment programs have both good and bad points. They are expensive and some times short lived. If new dune restoration is planted with the proper grasses and sand fences are used properly, the life expectancy of beach and dune restoration is considerably extended. The fact of the matter on the Outer Banks comes down to tourist trade. Beach erosion on some parts of the Outer Banks affects tourist trade on all the Outer Banks. The methods of paying for beach nourishment are many. They range from federal funding to increases in sales taxes. Please answer a few questions on your thoughts about participating in beach nourishment.

35. Even knowing that Southern Shores is not having the extensive erosion problems that our neighbors to the south are encountering, are you in favor of our participating as a Dare County member in a beach nourishment program?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes  
\_\_\_\_\_ No

36. If there were no federal or state monies available for beach nourishment, would you support an increase in the sales tax or the land transfer tax to fund beach nourishment?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes  
\_\_\_\_\_ No

### **Liquor By The Drink**

37. Would you support restaurants in Southern Shores serving liquor by the drink?

☐ Yes

☐ No

### **Natural Gas**

38. Natural gas is coming to the Outer Banks. If natural gas were to be made available to you as a resident, would you switch from your current energy source of electric power for heat, air conditioning, cooking etc. to natural gas?

☐ Yes

☐ No

### **The Natural Environment in Southern Shores**

39. Please indicate the extent of your agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

		Strongly Agree				Strongly Disagree
a.	I chose to live in Southern Shores because of the natural environment.	1	2	3	4	5
b.	The maritime forest of Southern Shores is an important element of what makes our town a special place, and therefore it should be protected by allowing only selective, limited land clearing.	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Some communities with significant tree cover have enacted ordinances that require property owners to get permission from local authorities before cutting down or removing a certain percentage or specific types of trees from their property. Assuming its provisions are moderate And carefully spelled out, would you be Likely to favor such an ordinance in Southern Shores?	1	2	3	4	5

**Here is one last final question.**

What is your overall impression of Southern Shores? Please provide a few adjectives or a paragraph if you desire, or your view of our Town. The good points and the bad points are of equal importance. Thank you for your help!

[illegible]